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AGRICULTURAL REPORT, FOR JANUARY, 1825.

Since the termination of the late war, the commercial, manufacturing, agricultural, and monied interests of the United Kingdom, have experienced the most remarkable vicissitudes. The revision occasioned by the sudden and unexpected return of peace, produced calamities in the mercantile world, equally unparalleled in magnitude and extent. The stagnation of trade brought on the ruin of the manufacturer; and the want of demand for provisions in our fleets and armies, with the decreased consumption of the necessaries and comforts of life, by the working classes, hastened the downfall of the agriculturist. The monied interests were the last to suffer; but the wonderful diminution of the capital required in trade, manufactures, and the purchase of the necessaries and luxuries of life, soon left millions of money unemployed, and an extraordinary reduction of interest has been the natural consequence. With the continuation of peace, however, the great interests of the country, have successively recovered, in the very order in which originally they suffered. Commerce and manufactures have attained a state of unequalled prosperity: agriculture, during the last year, has begun to reassume a healthy and smiling aspect; and the increasing demand for capital occasioned by the flourishing condition of the country, will soon, in all probability, restore the drooping aspects of the monied interests.

The improved condition of the agricultural classes, must, in a particular manner, afford the highest gratification to every true lover of his country. With a superabundant population, almost wholly employed, (in three Provinces at least,) in the healthful and virtuous labours of the field, it is a matter of incalculable importance to the social tranquillity and happiness of Ireland, that an adequate remuneration should be received for the produce of the soil. Of this we have, at present, a remarkable prospect. Notwithstanding the remarkable abundance and superior quality of the produce of the last harvest, the prices of all kinds of grain and provisions have maintained a steady advance; sufficient to reward the industry of the farmer, without being oppressive to the artisan and manufacturer. We are aware, indeed, that some persons endeavour to account for the present state of the markets, by alleging that the late crop was by no means so superior, as it has been represented. We have the best authority, however, for stating, that

both as to quantity and quality, this country, never, perhaps, enjoyed a more abundant produce. Neither do we believe, with others, that prices have been kept up by any great increase of speculation. The real cause, and we have no doubt but it will prove permanent, seems to be, the general increasing prosperity of the country, which enables the various classes of the community to purchase, and consequently to use, a much greater quantity of the necessities and comforts of life. If the *Landlords* be wise enough not to discourage the exertions of their tenant, by returning to the old system of *Rack-rents*, on the first dawning of a better day; and if the *Farmers* have prudence sufficient to prevent them from resuming culpable habits of expenditure; we are confident that the agriculture of this country will be gradually restored to a permanently flourishing condition. From the nature of its soil, the habits and employment of its people, and the manner in which affluence has covered the face of the country with lordly demesnes and graceful villas, England can never be able to raise sufficient produce for its own consumption. We may therefore confidently anticipate, in the commercial and manufacturing prosperity of the sister kingdom, an inexhaustible source of demand for the superabundant produce, raised by the labour of our rural population. We do not even fear, if our landed proprietors have common sense, that any reasonable modification of the existing *Corn laws*, would prove essentially injurious to our agricultural interests.

We are convinced, indeed, that all classes of the community have acquired much practical wisdom in the school of adversity. The extravagant spirit of mercantile adventure has been checked; the manufacturer has been taught to calculate consequences; the intoxication of both landlord and tenant has subsided, which made the one imagine he never could ask enough, and the other that he could never promise too much. The very difficulties which both the owner and the occupier of the soil have experienced, have made them better acquainted with themselves, and with each other. They have found that their interests are inseparable; and this has brought them together in Farming Societies, to devise means for their mutual advantage. From the intercourse thus produced between the productive and the unproductive classes, much good results both

to themselves and to the community.—Meeting on the ground of their common humanity, the feudal pride of the great man loses itself in the honest sympathies of nature, and the eurious feelings of the peasant are converted into sentiments of attachment and respect. We, therefore, most cordially wish prosperity to those Farming Societies that already exist; and hope, ere long, to see them more widely diffused over the country. Independently of the kindly feeling which they are calculated to produce amongst the different classes of society, they actually promote a considerable increase of knowledge, and beneficial emulation amongst farmers.—We have only to regret, that their exertions are generally too much confined to ploughing; which, however important, ought not to supersede a due attention to many other equally valuable parts of rural economy. But we have no doubt that, in a short time, their own experience, and the use of the best authors on agricultural subjects, will both enlarge their views, and increase their usefulness; and, firmly believing that they may essentially promote the prosperity and happiness of Ireland, we most cordially say—“God speed the plough.”

But we feel that in attending to general considerations, we have lost sight of our particular object—the business of the present month. In ordinary seasons, this would be a matter of very little importance; for, January is generally the deadest and least valuable month of the year; but owing to the extreme severity of the end of last autumn, and the beginning of the present winter, it has, this season, been a period of the utmost consequence to the agriculturist. Up to the end of December, the prospect of the ensuing wheat crop was extremely gloomy; and tended much to raise the price of grain. Very little potato ground, which is principally used for Wheat in the

North, could be prepared for the seed; and even much of the fallow land remained unsown. The cold, but dry weather, however, which we have generally experienced during the present month, has enabled the farmer, in most cases, to complete his sowing in good order; and a few dry days, any time during the ensuing month, will put the usual quantity of ground under Wheat. To this circumstance, we may, in some degree, ascribe the small decline in prices that has lately taken place.

The days are gradually lengthening, and the country is beginning to assume a countenance of cheerfulness and activity. We earnestly urge our agricultural friends to push on their tillage, whenever the weather will permit. In our northern and uncertain climate, early sowing is generally of vast importance. Early and abundant harvests almost uniformly follow an early seedtime; and from this time forward, the farmer may safely sow his oats, whenever his ground is sufficiently dry to bear his horses, and cover the seed with the harrow.

We shall feel much obliged by any hints or communications from our agricultural readers; and we assure them, that we are most anxious to do them any good in our power. At the end of our reports, we shall give the lowest and the highest prices of farming produce every month, in the Belfast Market, confining ourselves to the sales of the best qualities of each article.

During the month of January, 1825, the variation has been as follows:				
White Wheat, per cwt.	from 15s. 9d.	to 16s. 6d.		
Red ditto.	-	-	15 0	... 15 9
Barley,	-	-	10 0	... 10 6
Oats,	-	-	8 0	... 8 6
Oatmeal,	-	-	14 2	... 14 8
Flour,	-	-	26 0	... 0 0
Potatoes,	-	-	1 5	... 1 9
Butter,	-	-	92 0	... 100 0
Beef, per 120 lbs.	-	-	45 0	... 50 0
Pork,	do.	-	48 0	... 50 0

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

WORKS PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER.

- Baillie's (*Marianne*) Lisbon, in the years 1821—22—23, 2 Vols. 12mo, 15s.
 Ballantyne's Novelist's Library, Vols. 9 and 10, royal 8vo, 2l. 16s.
 Barclay's Engravings of the Skeleton, 4to, 15s.
 Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, 8vo, 18s.
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 Benson's Sermons, Part III, 8vo. 6s.
 Biblical Cyclopaedia, 2 Vols. 8vo. 1l. 12s.
 Blundell's Physiological Researches, 8vo. 6s.
 Botanic Garden, by B. Maund, No. 1, fcap, 4to, 1s—post 4to, 1s. 6d.

- Butler's Book of the Roman Catholic Church, 8vo, 9s. 6d.
 Cabinet of Foreign Voyages, 18 mo. 14s.
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 Cole's Biographical and Descriptive Tour from Scarborough, post 8vo, 8s—medium 8vo, 12s.
 Conspectus of Prescriptions, 18 mo, 5s.
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